



# CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE UPDATE

## **UPDATE ON SEWER MAIN REPAIR ACTIVITIES IN FORT LAUDERDALE**

**December 22, 7:00 p.m.**

Following is an update on sewer main repair activities on a 48-inch line in the Himmarshee Canal in Beverly Heights and a 54-inch line on SE 10 Street along the north side of Virginia Young Park in Rio Vista. In addition, below are updates on ongoing cleanup and remediation efforts in the Hector Park area along Ponce de Leon Drive in Rio Vista.

### **Rumor Control**

We noticed posts today on social media about bubbling seen in the Himmarshee Canal, which led to false reports and misinformation about another possible line break. To clarify, the bubbling in the Himmarshee Canal was not the result of another line break. It was being caused by compressed air that workers were using to clear sediment from underneath the damaged pipe to prepare it for the repair. Bubbling in other parts of the Himmarshee Canal is due to aerators that are pumping oxygen into the waterway to help improve water quality.

### **Operations in the Himmarshee Canal**

- Industrial divers are conducting underwater repairs on a 48-inch sewer main in the Himmarshee Canal in the vicinity of SE 2 Street and SE 9 Avenue.
- Divers have completed excavation work around the pipe and repairs are underway.
- The leak is not impacting properties on land.
- Three aerators are operating at points along the Himmarshee Canal to help improve water quality.
- Neighbors are reminded that the Himmarshee Canal from S. Federal Highway to the New River remains under a precautionary advisory for recreational water-related activities. Swimming, fishing, jet-skiing, paddle-boarding, kayaking, canoeing, or engaging in any water-related activities within the precautionary advisory area should be avoided.
- To view a map of the precautionary advisory area, please visit <http://bit.ly/35l0DuC>.

### **Operations at Virginia Young Park**

- The contractor has assembled approximately 275 feet of the 36-inch bypass pipe which runs from Hector Park over the SE 9 Avenue bridge and will connect to the 54-inch pipe at a point just north of SE 9 Street.
- Work will continue this evening on assembling the final northern portion of the bypass line.
- The northern tapping saddle and relief saddle are installed and secured in place.
- A valve has been installed on the relief saddle to help regulate pressure in the pipe when the line stop is installed.
- Crews will work during the evening hours to install the northern line stop mechanism on the tapping saddle so that it is in place and ready to be deployed.
- Once the line stop apparatus is installed and secured in place, crews will position and connect the northern end of the 36-inch bypass line to the 54-inch pipe.

- The collection system pumping stations are expected to be turned off during the lowest overnight usage so that crews can insert the line stops into the 54-inch pipe and activate the bypass line.
- Once the line stops are activated, the valves on the bypass line can be opened and flow will be diverted around the damaged section of pipe and through the bypass pipe.
- System checks will continue throughout the evening hours and additional staff and resources will be staged and ready should they be needed at any point during the repair activities.
- Cliff Berry, Inc. (CBI) conducted cleaning activities, pressure washing, and sludge removal today in the areas in the immediate vicinity and east of Virginia Young Park.
- Virginia Young Park remains closed while repair activities are taking place.
- Neighbors are reminded that the area in and around Virginia Young Park is an active construction zone.
- For the safety of everyone, access to the construction zone is limited to appropriate operational and management personnel.

### **Cleanup and Remediation of Ponce de Leon Drive/Hector Park Area**

- CBI cleaned and pressure washed where needed today on the south side of Ponce de Leon Drive and in the vicinity of Hector Park.
- Activities to clear and secure Hector Park continued today.
- Equipment continued to be removed and repositioned as part of the demobilization efforts.
- Hector Park remains closed to the public.
- The south side of Ponce de Leon Drive at SE 9 Avenue remains open.

### **Environmental Activities**

- 14 aerators continued to operate to help improve water quality in the Tarpon River, New River, and Himmarshee Canal.
- Boats continued to patrol the canal system in and around Rio Vista and were deployed to the Himmarshee Canal to conduct skimming and debris removal on the waterways.
- Planning continued for air lancing activities in the Tarpon River to help break down the organic material that has been discharged into the waterway.
- Planning continued for air quality testing to monitor the air quality index in the affected area.

### **Road Closures**

- Roads in the immediate vicinity of Virginia Young Park are closed including SE 10 Street between SE 9 Avenue and Rio Vista Boulevard, as well as Rio Vista Boulevard between SE 9 Avenue and SE 9 Street.
- A portion of SE 9 Avenue in the vicinity of SE 9 Street is closed where crews are working on the 54-inch pipe.
- When the bypass pipe is positioned in place along SE 9 Avenue, traffic will not be able to cross the intersections of SE 9 Avenue at SE 9 Street, SE 10 Street, South Rio Vista Boulevard, and the north side of Ponce de Leon Drive.
- The south side of Ponce de Leon Drive at SE 9 Avenue will remain accessible.

### **Safety Tips**

- Neighbors in the affected area are reminded to avoid contact with any standing water.
- If contact is made, please remember to follow proper hygiene procedures. Wash your hands with soap and warm water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer immediately after contact with wastewater, especially before preparing or eating food.

- Be sure to keep all children and pets away from any area affected by the wastewater spill.
- Keep a container or spray bottle outside residential entryways with a 90/10 solution (90% water to 10% household bleach) to clean shoes and other items that may have come into contact with wastewater.

### **Precautionary Advisory for Water-Related Recreational Activities**

- A precautionary advisory for recreational activities in local waterways remains in effect.
- The boundaries are Broward Boulevard to the north, Poinciana Drive to the east, SE 15 Street to the south, and SW 18 Avenue to the west. Water-related activities including swimming, fishing, jet-skiing, paddle-boarding, kayaking, and canoeing should be avoided within these boundaries.
- To view a map of the precautionary advisory for water-related recreational activities, please visit <http://bit.ly/35l0DuC>.

### **For More Information**

Neighbors are encouraged to stay up to date by visiting the City's website at [www.fortlauderdale.gov](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov) or following the City on social media at:

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/CityofFortLauderdale/>

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/FTLCityNews>

Nextdoor – <https://www.nextdoor.com>

Neighbors may also call the City's 24-hour Neighbor Call Center at 954-828-8000.